The direct and indirect taxes do not make any distinction between public and private sector. They enjoy similar treatment under the provisions of the Act. Further sales tax concessions are given by State Governments to public and private sector oil companies for setting up new refineries.

(b) The upstream oil PSUs like ONGC, OIL & GAIL and oil marketing companies (OMCs) namely IOCL, HPCL, BPCL and IBP are bearing a large part of the subsidy on PDS SKO, domestic LPG, MS and HSD, which is being passed on to the consumers. This burden is not being borne by the private sector oil companies.

Dispute on Sakhalin Project

2669. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dispute between India and Russia about Sakhalin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stands taken by India and Russfa^pn these issues; and

(d) the steps taken by Government lo thrash out these issues amicably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Achievements under NELP

2670. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ever increasing consumption of hydrocarbons has put the country under compulsion for venturing of new oil/gas discoveries;

(b) the level of achievements out of NELP in country's self sufficiency in petroleum products; and

(c) Government's future plan to overcome the demand growth indicating the target for raising the cude production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.